



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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May 18, 2005

Inquiry:

Does the Respiratory Care Practice Act cover for RCP's flushing the arterial line with a Heparin solution? It is a necessary part of the collecting of the sample and part of the standard procedure. A concern was raised that it may be considered delivering a medication out side of the scope of the RCP practice act. Does this line address it from the practice act and is it acceptable?

(§ 3702. Practice of respiratory care; Components; "Respiratory care protocols" (b) Direct and indirect respiratory care services, including but not limited to, the administration of pharmacological and diagnostic and therapeutic agents related to respiratory care procedures necessary to implement a treatment, disease prevention, pulmonary rehabilitative or diagnostic regimen prescribed by a physician and surgeon.)

Response:

Thank you for your inquiry. The board has reviewed your inquiry and has the following comments on the matter.

Section 3702 as you have quoted in your inquiry does cover your question regarding the appropriateness of RCP's flushing arterial lines to obtain blood samples for diagnostic purposes in order to implement a cardiopulmonary treatment.

Thank you for your inquiry. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer of the Respiratory Care Board.

Reference #: 2004-C-38